Explanatory note
The present indicative list of global treaties is based on a previous report of the Secretary-General on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (A/60/63/Add.1), and includes treaties adopted thereafter. The document, which is a living document, does not purport to be exhaustive and will be developed incrementally to include regional treaties as well as other international instruments.


International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946

Convention on the High Seas, 1958

Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas, 1958

International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969

Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances other than Oil, 1973
Patent Cooperation Treaty, 1970

Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972


International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 1973) as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78)

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, 2001


Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1985

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1987


International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990

Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000

Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992


Paris Agreement, 2015*

* Not yet in force
Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, 1993

Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, 1994


International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001

International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004*

Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2009*

Minamata Convention on Mercury, 2013*